

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 00390 251724Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 SIL-01 PA-02 PRS-01 SS-15 LAB-04

/040 W

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R 251442Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9684

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS HELSINKI 390

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM IN JOENSUU, CAPITAL OF NORTH
KARELIA

CONTINUING HIS PROGRAM OF BICENTENNIAL VISITS TO PROVINCIAL
CAPITALS AND OTHER MAJOR CITIES IN FINLAND, AMBASSADOR AUSTAD
AND 4 EMBASSY OFFICERS VISITED JOENSUU FEBRUARY 11-12.

THE PROGRAM ORGANIZED JOINTLY BY USIS, THE CITY AND LOCAL
CHAPTER OF THE FINNISH-AMERICAN SOCIETY INCLUDED MEETINGS WITH
THE GOVERNOR OF THE NORTH KARLIA PROVINCE, THE MAYOR AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOENSUU CITY COUNCIL, THE RECTOR OF JOENSUU
UNIVERSITY, LOCAL LABOR AND BUSINESS LEADERS.

IN CONNECTION WITH VISIT, CAO, PO, LAB. ATT. AND ECO. OFFICER
GAVE TOTAL OF 8 LECTURES TO OVER 2,000 GYMNASIUM STUDENTS.
ONE OF MORE INTERESTING ASPECTS AMBASSADOR'S VISIT WAS MEETING
WITH LOCAL LABOR LEADERS. COMMUNIST CHIEF STEWARD FOR CONSTRUCTION
WORKERS UNION ASKED AMBASSADOR SERIES OF QUESTIONS ON U.S.,
PREFACING HIS QUESTIONS WITH COMPLAINT THAT NOT ENOUGH IS KNOWN
ABOUT U.S. IN FINLAND AND THAT T.V. AND FILMS GIVE DISTORTED
PICTURE. CHIEF STEWARD AND AMBASSADOR GOT INTO LIVELY GIVE AND
TAKE WHICH ENDED WITH STEWARD THANKING AMBASSADOR FOR HIS
FORTHRIGHT ANSWERS. CHIEF SHOP STEWARD OF METAL WORKERS UNION,
ALSO PRESENT AT SESSION, THANKED AMBASSADOR FOR HIS EFFORTS
ON BEHALF OF FINNISH ICEBREAKERS.

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HIGHLIGHT OF VIST WAS BICENTENNIAL CEREMONY ARRANGED IN CITY

THEATER BY LOCAL CHAPTER FINNISH-AMERICAN SOCIETY, WHICH FEATURED SPEECHES BY AMBASSADOR, U.S. HISTORIAN BILL COPELAND, ENTERTAINMENT BY LOCAL MENS CHOIR AND USIS PROVIDED FOLK SINGER TIM STEFFA. GOVERNOR, MAYOR, CHAIRMAN OF CITY COUNCIL ALL ATTENDED CEREMONY.

AT DINNER HOSTED BY CITY, WHICH CONCLUDED AMBASSADOR'S VISIT, JOENSUU'S SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MAYOR GAVE MOVING SPEECH EMPHASIZING VIRTUES OF U.S. AND QUOTING FROM DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IN BOTH FINNISH AND ENGLISH.

PRESS COVERAGE WAS IMPRESSIVE. BOTH LOCAL NEWSPAPERS, TOTAL CIRCULATION 59,000, GAVE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO AMBASSADOR'S PRESS CONFERENCE, REMARKS AT MAIN EVENT AND VISIT IN GENERAL. LARGEST NEWSPAPER CARRIED PRE-VISIT INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR. AUSTAD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS, FOREIGN LEADER EXCHANGE, KARELIA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976HELSIN00390
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760071-0861
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760215/aaaaamxs.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: castelsl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <27 AUG 2004 by castelsl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM IN JOENSUU, CAPITAL OF NORTH KARELIA
TAGS: OVIP, SCUL, US, FI
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006